

NEW PVAAS Features 2011 Fall Release

There are several significant NEW features and enhancements in the fall 2011 release of PVAAS reporting. This document will detail the rationale for the three most significant new features and illustrate examples of these NEW PVAAS reporting features. Focus groups, including a range of stakeholders, were conducted across the state during summer 2011 for feedback on these features. These new features include:

1. NEW: Color Code Scheme and Legend Language - Grades 4-8 and 9-11
2. NEW: Web-based Scatterplots
3. NEW: User Friendly Report Labels/Terms

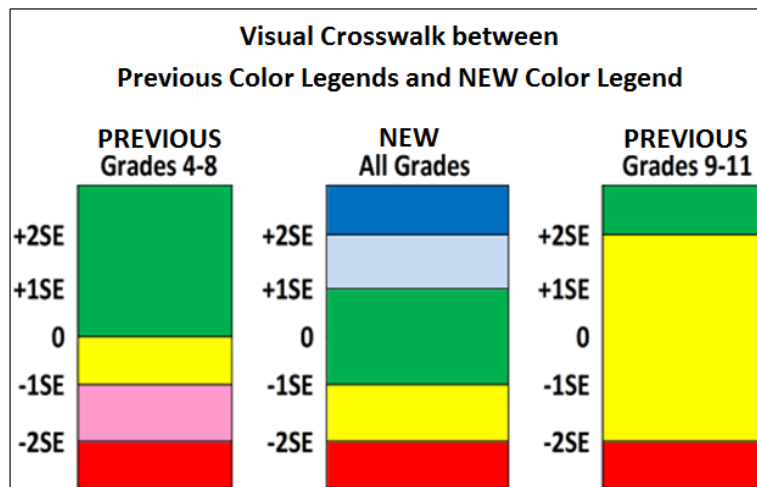
NEW Color Code Scheme and Legend Language:

Rationale:

- The NEW color code scheme and legend language are now aligned (the same) for grades 4-8 AND grades 9-11 reporting. The previous color code schemes were different for grades 4-8 and 9-11 reporting making professional development with a K-12 team more complex for schools and districts.
- The NEW color code scheme differentiates on both ends of the continuum, whereas the previous grades 4-8 color code scheme only differentiated below ZERO (the standard for PA Academic Growth). The previous color code scheme and legend language for grades 4-8 highlighted the areas where schools made less than the standard for PA Academic Growth, but did not highlight the areas where a school had made more than the standard for PA Academic Growth.
- Each color code range was determined based on the standard error (SE). See crosswalk below of previous color codes and NEW color code scheme.

NEW Color Legend for Use in Both Grades 4-8 and Grades 9-11 PVAAS Value-Added Reports

DB	<i>Significant</i> evidence that the district/school exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth
LB	<i>Moderate</i> evidence that the district/school exceeded the standard for PA Academic Growth
G	Evidence that the district/school met the standard for PA Academic Growth
Y	<i>Moderate</i> evidence that the district/school did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth
R	<i>Significant</i> evidence that the district/school did not meet the standard for PA Academic Growth

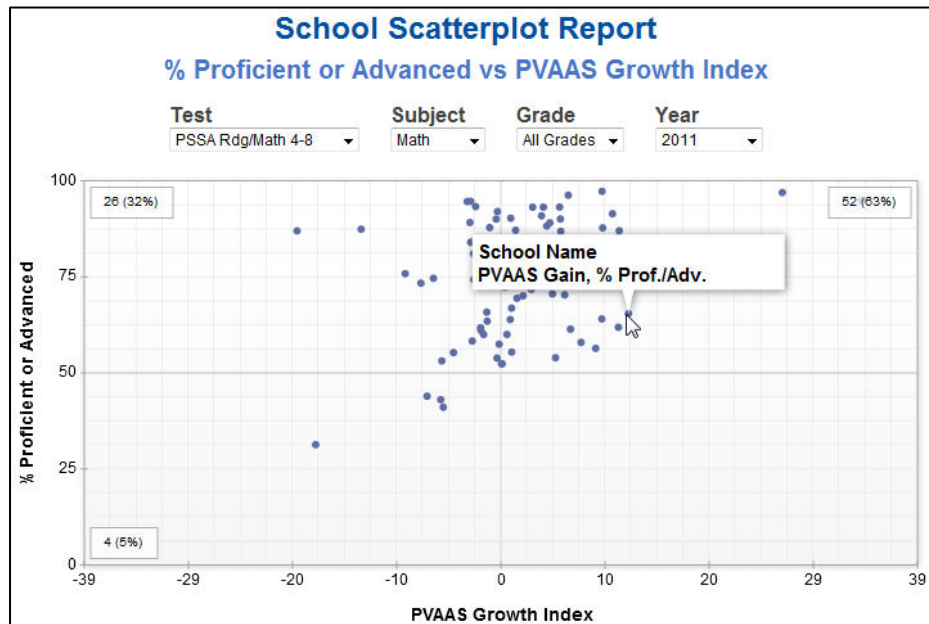


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NEW Web-based Scatterplot Report:

Rationale:

PVAAS scatterplots have been provided to LEAs in a static form for the past several years. Scatterplots will now be provided via the web-based PVAAS reporting site! Districts and schools can use this new web-based report to find and highlight their schools. The availability to view data from other LEAs will be aligned to legislative requirements for public access. See example of a Web-based Scatterplot Report using this NEW interactive feature on the PVAAS reporting site.



NEW User Friendly Report Labels/Terms:

Rationale: Many of the report labels were terms primarily used by the statistical community. To increase the likelihood of PVAAS reporting use, the labels have been changed to more user friendly language. However, the statistical integrity behind the reporting has remained the same.

Examples of label changes include, but are not limited to:

- Previous: Mean NCE Gain → New: Growth Measure
- Previous: Mean NCE Gain Across Grades → New: Growth Measure Over Grades
- Previous: Estimated District Mean NCE Scores → New: Estimated District Avg Achievement